



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

Salim, OAU Delegation Arrive for Talks

EA1104191595 Bujumbura ABP in French 1503 GMT
11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bujumbura, 11 April (ABP)—Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the OAU secretary general, arrived in Bujumbura today at 1500 for talks with all political figures on ways of solving the crisis which has been undermining Burundi for two years now.

Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, who will be joined by the Tunisian, Egyptian, Mauritian, and South African foreign ministers on 12 April, will meet the president of the Republic of Burundi; the prime minister; the military high command; western ambassadors accredited in Bujumbura; UN and OAU special representatives; the Observation Mission for Burundi, MIOB, staff; the National Security Council; leaders of officially-recognized political parties; and former Burundian Presidents Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and Major Pierre Buyoya.

At Bujumbura international airport, where he was met by Mr. Jean-Marie Ngendahayo, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim told the press that the OAU aimed to avert a Rwandan-type genocide in Burundi, denying that there was an impending genocide in Burundi. If there had been an impending genocide in Burundi, he said, the OAU would have done everything to prevent it.

Touching on the issue of refugees and displaced people, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim stressed that no summit on displaced people and refugees had ever taken place, and that the OAU was planning to organize one.

Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim called on all national and foreign political figures to coordinate their activities to restore peace in Burundi.

Salim on Military Intervention

AB1104171595 Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT
11 Apr 95

[By Hugh Nevill]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bujumbura, April 11 (AFP)—The head of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Tuesday [11 April] evoked the possibility of military intervention in Burundi, saying the world would not stand "idly by" if massacres continued.

Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim was responding to statements by French Cooperation Minister Bernard Debre and others ruling out any military intervention in this tiny central African nation, poised on the brink of civil war between Hutus and Tutsis.

He was speaking on a day when the situation in Bujumbura was calm after the flight of most of its Hutu

inhabitants at the end of March, and as relief agencies continued to truck Rwandan Hutu refugees back to their camps in northeastern Burundi.

Close to 60,000 of those refugees, numbering 200,000 in all, had spent a week-and-a-half squatting in a makeshift camp on the road to the Tanzanian border, which Dar es Salaam closed, saying it could not cope with the influx.

"We have tried to avoid the possibility of military intervention," Salim told journalists after arriving in Bujumbura for his seventh trip, "but it is important that our brothers and sisters in Burundi ... understand that the international community—and Africa ... will not stand idly by if we see the deterioration of the situation in Burundi and the continuation of massacres.

"It is idle to pretend the world would simply fold its hands." [sentence as received]

Salim, a Tanzanian, said an OAU delegation made up of the foreign ministers of South Africa and Mauritius and the deputy foreign ministers of Tunisia and Egypt, arriving Wednesday, would discuss "practical things to be done" to defuse the tension.

He drew parallels between the clashes in Burundi and the "agony" in neighbouring Rwanda, where Hutu extremists slaughtered more than half a million Tutsis last year, and killed moderate Hutus as well, before losing a three-month civil war to a Tutsi rebel army.

Burundi has the same ethnic mix as did Rwanda at the start of the war there—85 percent Hutu to 14 percent Tutsi—but the army and paramilitary gendarmerie here are dominated totally by the Tutsis.

Salim said flatly that "there have been massacres" in Burundi, but refused to be drawn on Debre's description of US Ambassador Robert Krueger as a "warmonger."

Krueger recently reported that soldiers and Tutsi militias had massacred 400 Hutus in northeastern Burundi, 150 of them in the village of Gasorwe.

Interior Minister Gabriel Shinarinzi on Monday put the death toll in Gasorwe at 58, and blamed the killings on provocation by "armed gangs," the term used here to designate Hutu militias. He said they attacked military positions, and used local Hutus as a "human shield."

"When there is an exchange of fire, there are always victims," he noted.

Salim, who said the OAU "appreciated very much" the efforts made by Debre on a recent visit to Bujumbura during which he won commitment from political leaders to work toward peace, said it was not his business to comment on his charges against the ambassador.

Debre, in his comments in Paris on Monday, said the ambassador wanted a military intervention, but was not prepared to send soldiers.

US Embassy spokesman Gordon Dogood said that the ambassador, due to leave Bujumbura Wednesday to spend Easter in his native Texas, and to consult with the State Department in Washington, had no comment to make on "press reports of any individual statements" while awaiting the conclusions of a Burundian government commission of inquiry set up on April 5 to investigate his charges.

Former Burundian President Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi who was catapulted into power by a military coup in 1987, but then introduced democratisation and lost the presidency in elections in 1993, also refused to comment on the ambassador's charges, saying he refused to give him "marks out of 10."

The ETOILE (STAR) newspaper, allied to former Tutsi President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, a beacon for Tutsi extremists, meanwhile accused Krueger of hatred toward Tutsis, and fanning the flames of war, saying: "The day will come, perhaps, when Burundian patriots will make him pay for it. That would be a legitimate act."

Foreign Minister on OAU's Mission

AB1104201495 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 11 Apr 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Organization of African Unity has stepped up the pace of its diplomatic efforts to end the ethnic unrest between the Hutu and Tutsi communities in Burundi. OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim has just arrived for talks with the government, and a delegation of foreign ministers from four African countries is expected tomorrow. One of the key players in all the diplomatic towing and throwing is Jean Marie Ngendahayo, the foreign minister in Burundi's coalition government. And on the line to Bujumbura, Jeremy Skeet asked him if the issue of military intervention had come up in his talks with the OAU secretary general:

[Begin recording] [Ngendahayo] He said that if ever Burundians themselves are going into violent situation, the military intervention will not wait for the request of Burundians. It will happen without the request of Burundians themselves, because international community will never stand again such a genocide like in Rwanda. But everybody says this is the last solution, and we can say the worst one. But to tell you frankly, we are noticing encouraging signs of recovering peace.

[Skeet] You say that the situation is getting better in Burundi. How is it getting better?

[Ngendahayo] All the political leaders have started to talk to the population with the same speech. The prime minister and the president of the Republic have gone inside the country, wherever they were, saying that it was absolutely dangerous to be there, and they went there. [sentence as heard] They went to Kirundo, they went to

Muninga, they went to Chibitoke, and from there on that place, they delivered very encouraging messages.

[Skeet] But at the same time, extreme politicians are also promoting their message of ethnic hatred.

[Ngendahayo] Of course—we are struggling against them. So, don't think that they are sleeping. When we are trying to do something, unfortunately, they are doing other things. It is normal.

[Skeet] Have you yourself been out into the countryside to spread this message of peace and reconciliation?

[Ngendahayo] Of course, for instance, this morning I was in Ngagara area, where are essentially Tutsi groups. From tomorrow and the following days, we are going to discuss with target groups like youth or business people or civil servants [proceeding word in French] and so one.

[Skeet] Now, the last time I spoke to you last month, you were very depressed. Are you still depressed?

[Ngendahayo] I think it depends. There are sometimes I am and sometimes I am encouraged. It depends on the situation on the field.

[Skeet] And today?

[Ngendahayo] Today, I am not at all in depress. [laughter] [end recording]

Former Interior Minister Says Army Must Change

LD1104141595 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Burundi, the crusade for pacification and reconciliation in the country started by the main leaders has been described in advance as empty and useless by the former interior minister, Leonard Nyangoma, who heads a movement of armed struggled and who is living in hiding. As far as he is concerned, there is no lasting solution until the international community has forced the Burundian Army to change. He spoke to Monique Mas from his secret place of exile:

[Begin Nyangoma recording] The root of the evil in Burundi today is the army, the monoethnic army. The Tutsi army has declared war on its people, and the people have asked for help from the international community. Until today, the international community has remained indifferent to the question of the army. This is why the people themselves have organized themselves and created a parallel army. I think the people will end up winning. [end recording]

Leonard Nyangoma. And note this remark by French Cooperation Minister Bernard Debre, who yesterday criticized the U.S. ambassador to Burundi, Robert Krueger, calling him a warmonger. Bernard Debre also said he himself might return to Bujumbura in the next few days at the request of the Burundi authorities to try to calm down the two sides. [passage omitted]

Central African Republic

President Patasse Accepts Mandaba's Resignation

AB1104160395 Paris AFP in French 1426 GMT
11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 11 Apr (AFP)—Central African Republic Prime Minister Jean-Luc Mandaba this afternoon presented his resignation to President Ange-Felix Patasse, who accepted it. In a statement to the media, Mr. Mandaba explained that he resigned "to save the country and save my party."

In a communique, Alfred Polko, spokesman for the Presidency of the Republic, said that the head of state had accepted Mr. Mandaba's resignation, and that a new prime minister will be appointed in the days ahead.

Government Issues Communique

AB1104212395 Bangui Radiodiffusion-Television
Centrafricaine Radio in French 1800 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Government communique issued on 11 April; place not given; read by unidentified spokesman—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Presidency of the Republic announces: Yesterday, 10 April 1995, in line with provisions of Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic, the National Assembly tabled a no confidence motion. Following this, the prime minister and head of government, His Excellency Jean-Luc Mandaba, tendered his resignation to the president of the Republic, head of state, with the following message:

To the presidency of the government from the prime minister; Bangui, 11 April 1995.

Mr. President of the Republic and head of state:

On 24 October 1993, you called on me to lead the first government of change. I accepted the mission knowing perfectly well that the task would not be easy. Much progress was made within the framework of your profession of faith for true change, but much remains to be done. The country needs a new impetus, and in this regard, please accept my resignation and that of my government.

Highest regards,

Signed, Jean-Luc Mandaba.

This resignation was accepted by the president of the Republic, head of state, today, 11 April 1995 at 1300.

A new prime minister will be designated at a later date. I thank you.

Opposition Member Pessimistic About Democracy

AB1104161795 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215
GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As a confidence motion hangs threateningly over Prime Minister Jean-Luc Mandaba's cabinet, Francois-Luc Moukouangui approached Abel Goumba, the main Central African opposition leader, who assessed the chances for democracy in the Central African Republic [CAR], and who sounded rather pessimistic:

[Begin Goumba recording] Democracy is faring very badly in CAR, I must say, following a referendum whose results were rigged. Let me seize this opportunity to state that the government of President Patasse's Central African People's Liberation Movement is clearly in the minority. Instead of the 82 percent that they talk of, they actually have 37 percent, because when there is an abstention rate as high as 55 percent one cannot talk of a majority. The abstention rate was 55 percent, with the yes vote accounting for half of the electorate. First of all, therefore, we must take account of this rigged referendum under the present circumstances. The opposition does not any access to state-owned media. We are therefore really unable to get our views across, while the industrial climate is becoming increasingly worse. Even worse, union leaders have been arrested. Those who work are being constantly intimidated and, quite recently, some unemployed graduates went to the Ministry of Civil Service find out about the outcome of certain promises to employ them. They were arrested, and more than 30 of them—including a woman with a three-month old baby—have been transferred to the Garaba Central Prisons. So as you can see, we have social upheavals almost everywhere. [end recording]

Kenya**Sudan's Garang Claims Rebel Factions Rejoining SPLA**

EA1104203995 Nairobi KTN Television Network in English 1805 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talks between Sudanese rebel leader John Garang and the leader of the Islamic Fundamentalist National Islamic Front, NIF, Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, failed to take off as scheduled in Nairobi yesterday, because Dr. al-Turabi simply snubbed the meeting, the rebel leader has claimed. Colonel Garang says he had received official communication from the Kenyan authorities that the meeting, which was to take place yesterday morning, was to be chaired by President Daniel arap Moi, in his capacity as the chairman of the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] peace initiative. Garang told a well-attended news conference in Nairobi today that Dr. al-Turabi failed to turn up for the meeting, because he wanted President Moi to mediate the meeting in his capacity as the president of the Republic of Kenya, and not the chairman of IGADD. This, the rebel leader said, was a sinister attempt by NIF to divide IGADD member countries.

At the same time, Garang claimed that SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] splinter groups had rejoined his movement and were no longer loyal to Khartoum. He said that soon after rejoining the SPLA, the soldiers disarmed 72 government soldiers and took them prisoner in the Lafon area of southern Sudan yesterday.

But a spokesman of the South Sudan Independence Movement, SSIM, told KTN that SSIM had not rejoined SPLA and was carrying out its military actions independently.

The 12 year-old civil war has claimed more than 2 million lives.

Somalia**Ali Mahdi on Trip to Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti**

EA1004210395 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Great Somali People in Somali 1700 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Ali Mahdi Mohamed, the president of the Somali Republic, who is also the chairman of the Somali Salvation Alliance, SSA, and his high-powered delegation returned to the country today after concluding a 15-day visit to Djibouti, Sudan, and Ethiopia. The president told reporters the visits were made in response to official invitations by those countries. He said they had to make two trips to each country to explain to the governments of the countries the

current situation in Somalia, especially after the departure of the foreign powers and about the efforts being made to avert another civil war in the country, particularly in Mogadishu.

The president said that, during their stay in Sudan, where the Somali delegation had been eagerly awaited, they had held talks with senior Sudanese Government officials, including 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the country's president, and Dr. Ghazi Salal al-Din, minister of state for foreign affairs. Together they discussed the situation in Somalia and bilateral issues. The president said that, while in Khartoum, they attended the conference of Islamic countries, which was held between 30 March and 3 April at the Friendship Hall.

The president said that at the conference, which was attended by over 80 Islamic countries, the Somali delegation had the opportunity to deliver a speech on the problems facing Somalia, and to appeal to the conference to come to the country's rescue, given that the United Nations Operation in Somalia had left Somalia. The delegation also informed the conference about the looming drought disaster and health problem in Somalia.

Fortunately, the first point of the conference's resolutions dwelt on resolving the Somali issue, whether through humanitarian or political assistance. The conference announced the formation of a reconciliation committee for Somalia, whose members will be selected from the countries represented at the conference.

On the visit to the Republic of Djibouti, the president first thanked the Djibouti Government for the warm welcome accorded them. The president said they met with President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, whom they briefed on the situation in Somalia. He said the Djibouti Government understood the real situation in Somalia, because it had all along been in the forefront of trying to find a solution to the Somali issue, and was still doing that now. The president said the Somali issue, as complex as it is, could not be left to one country alone, but should be dealt with jointly by all the countries on the Horn of Africa.

The president said they had also met Barkad Gourad Hamadou, the Djibouti prime minister, and other government officials, who the president thanked for their brotherly love to the Somali people during the past four years. He also appealed to them to continue to demonstrate the same love, until Somalia is able to stand on its feet.

While in Ethiopia, the president said they met Salim Ahmed Salim, the OAU secretary general, with whom they discussed the Somali issue and how the OAU could assist Somalia. The OAU boss pledged that his organization would make a new effort to help Somalia. The president finally appealed to the Somali people to help spread the peace that had dawned in Banaadir region and to resolve any conflicts through peaceful means and dialogue. [passage omitted]

Mandela Decides His Firing of Wife 'Invalid'

MB1204140895 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1359 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg 12 March SAPA—President Nelson Mandela has decided his dismissal of his estranged wife Winnie Mandela as deputy arts, culture, science and technology minister is invalid. Mrs Mandela has been informed that she still holds the position, acting President Thabo Mbeki said on Wednesday [12 April]. He said Mr Mandela would reconsider Mrs Mandela's position as deputy minister upon his return from the Gulf states. The appointment of Mrs Brigitte Mabandla, Mrs Mandela's replacement, had been reversed, Mr Mbeki said.

Mabandla To Resign 'A Few Hours'

MB1204125495 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1230 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Report by Angela Quintal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town April 27 SAPA—President Nelson Mandela's attorney on Wednesday [12 April] contacted Winnie Mandela's successor, Deputy Minister Brigitte Mabandla, to ask whether she would be willing to step down "for a few hours", so that Mrs Mandela could be reinstated and then presumably fired again.

This was confirmed by Mrs Mabandla's office on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs Mabandla was not willing to speak to the press until the President's Office had issued a statement, Government Spokesman Fanie van Rensburg said.

Mrs Mandela is suing the president for unlawful and unconstitutional dismissal. Mr Mandela fired his estranged wife on March 27 from her post as deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology, and offered no reasons for her dismissal.

It is understood that the president, to avoid a costly legal battle, is considering reinstating Mrs Mandela.

Mr Mandela's attorney, Nicholas "Fink" Haysom, contacted Mrs Mabandla—Mrs Mandela's successor—in Pretoria on Wednesday to see whether she would be willing to step down. He apparently asked her to "step down for a few hours", Mr van Rensburg told SAPA.

It appears that Mrs Mandela's possible reinstatement will be brief, until the president can properly complete the formality of sacking her. He is due back in South Africa from the Gulf on Thursday.

President Mandela has been given until Thursday to say whether he intends opposing Mrs Mandela's Supreme Court application for reinstatement. If he fails to respond by then the matter has been set down for hearing on April 25.

'Experts' Say Interim Law Backs Case

MB1204073495 Johannesburg S Afrm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Legal experts say former deputy minister Winnie Mandela has the interim constitution

behind her in her fight to reverse her recent dismissal by President Nelson Mandela. In papers before the Pretoria Supreme Court Mrs. Mandela argued that her dismissal had been unlawful and unconstitutional because the letter informing her of dismissal did not have the required seal of the republic.

In summonses served on President Mandela and Mrs. Mandela's successor, Ms. Brigitte Mabandla, her lawyers said the letter terminating her services was not written on the customary letterhead of the president and did not designate the authority and office of its author. It also did not bear the coat of arms of the republic, did not bear the seal of the republic, had no address, and did not reflect any means of communication.

President Mandela and Miss Mabandla have until tomorrow to indicate whether they will oppose Mrs. Mandela's application before the matter is heard in the Pretoria Supreme Court on 25 April.

Support for Mrs. Mandela has come from an unexpected source. Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said in a affidavit that he had at no time been consulted over her dismissal. The affidavit was included in documents handed to the president and the new deputy arts and culture minister by Mrs. Mandela's lawyers.

Inkatha Drafts Alternative Constitution

MB1104150195 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 11 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Farouk Chothia]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Durban—The Inkatha Freedom Party was drafting a national constitution which would serve as a rival document to the one being drafted by the Constitutional Assembly, Inkatha constitutional affairs spokesman Sipho Mzimela said yesterday.

If the ANC refused to agree to international mediation, the proposed constitution would be Inkatha's "final submission" to the assembly, he said. It would be presented before the assembly completed its first constitutional draft later this year.

Inkatha's national council agreed at a meeting on Saturday [8 April] that the constitution be drafted to present a choice between a "genuine, classical federal system" and a "totalitarian type of state".

Inkatha would also argue forcefully in the election campaign that the ANC did not fulfil its promises—such as not honouring its pre-election agreement on mediation.

PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] deputy president Notsoko Phelco yesterday supported Inkatha's decision to suspend participation in the Constitutional Assembly. The PAC had argued at the start of the reform process that negotiations should take place under the auspices of a neutral or international convener to secure peace, stability and foreign investment.

Mzimela said Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's failure to spell out his position on the mediation impasse indicated "clear divisions" between himself and ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa. Mbeki had played a pivotal role in drafting acceptable terms of reference last year, but Ramaphosa had scuppered this.

ANC spokesman Jackson Mthembu said the ANC was "unanimous" in its views but Mbeki would spell out the party's position.

ANC Proceeds With Constitution Work

95AF0072A (Internet) ANC Gopher in English
27 Mar 95

[Second in a series of biweekly bulletins issued by the ANC Constitution Commission: "Constitution News"—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

UNITING A NATION

The ANC National Constitutional Conference from 31 March to 2 April will be discussing a document entitled "Building a United Nation" which proposes ANC positions on key constitutional issues. The document identifies seven key areas that need to be dealt with in the final constitution, states the binding constitutional principles relevant to each area, discusses the main issues of contention in that area and makes proposals for ANC policy. These proposals are based on current ANC policy, as well as suggestions on what new positions should be adopted.

In order to assist you in reading and digesting the document, Constitution News provides a summary of the key points and debates in each area.

1. Constituting the Republic

Preamble

The Constitution's preamble should express a commitment to:

* an open society which protects the dignity and worth of every South African; * * * [asterisks as received]

The final constitution should give expression to the goal of building the people of South Africa as one undivided and united nation.

Territory

The territory of South Africa will be the whole territory of South Africa as it is at the moment. It is not necessary, but may be possible, to reflect our assertion of territorial authority in respect of the coastal waters surrounding South Africa.

Language

The eleven official languages which are recognised in the Interim Constitution should be equally recognised in the

final constitution. There should be room for national or provincial governments to designate a language or languages as the official language or language of communication for any particular purpose, or generally. Every person should have the right to communicate in the courts, in Parliament and with Government in his/her own language.

Citizenship

All South Africans shall be entitled to equal and full citizenship, which may be acquired by birth, descent, marriage or naturalisation. No citizen shall be arbitrarily deprived of their citizenship, though legislation may set out the circumstances in which citizenship shall be lost.

2. Bill of Human Rights

The proposals on human rights are drawn from the Ready to Govern document. In general, the rights set out in a Bill of Human Rights need to: * * * [asterisks as received]

Not all rights can be appropriately set out in the Constitution and they may require proper elaboration in legislation.

A selection of policy on human rights is provided on page 4 [as received].

3. National Government

National Assembly

Parliament should consist of the National Assembly and Senate. For the National Assembly a mixed system of representation should be considered, which allows for a combination of constituency-based representation and proportional representation. The national assembly should consist of between 300 and 400 members, elected at least every five years from a common voters roll. The elections should be administered and supervised by an independent Electoral Commission. The Parliamentary Committee System should be used to ensure executive accountability to an informed parliament.

Senate

The role and structure of the Senate needs to be changed from its present form to give provinces a more direct say in developing national legislation. The proposals need to be considered together with a revised division of competencies between provincial and national government, in a manner which emphasises the role of Parliament in law making and the role of provinces in implementation and administration.

The functions of the Senate would be:

* * * [asterisks as received]

The Senate should have between 50 and 100 members, with each provincial executive and the national executive appointing between 5 and 10 Senators. These Senators would be subject to recall by the executive that appointed them.

The Senate will have the power to review and to veto legislation dealing with the exercise of powers and functions which belong to the provincial level (consent bills). The Senate will be able to review, but not veto, bills dealing with other matters. The Senate will have no powers over financial bills.

(The alternatives to this proposal are to retain the Senate approximately in its present form; or to do away with the Senate and reorganise the provincial list membership of the National Assembly.)

National Executive

Coalitions between parties of the Cabinet (Governments of National Unity) will be based on voluntary political pacts, and will not be required by the constitution. The President will be elected by the National Assembly and will appoint and dismiss Ministers and Deputy Ministers at his/her discretion. The Deputy President will also be elected by the National Assembly, and will be the parliamentary leader of the majority party in Parliament. Cabinet members will be accountable to Parliament and the President.

4. Provincial and Local Government

Provincial Government

The final constitution should create a balanced and co-operative provincial system through, on the one hand, collaboration of provinces on a national level through the newly conceived Senate, and on the other hand through the division of competencies between national and provincial levels.

The guiding view in this regard is that of executive administration and responsibility be assigned to elected and accountable provincial governments, while the weight of legislative activity on the norms and standards remain with the national level of government.

The legislative activity of provinces will be concurrent in much the same areas as now, and in respect of "framework" legislation, should be concerned with providing for the diversity of regional conditions and practical implementation.

The guiding criteria for the allocation of exclusive and concurrent powers for national and provincial government should be accountability, effectivity and efficiency; the level at which the best results with the least government expenses can be obtained, should be the level of the allocation of the relevant power.

Where there is conflict between provincial and parliamentary laws on concurrent matters, national Parliament should have overriding powers where desirable.

Local Government

Comprehensive framework legislation on local government—including its powers, functions and structures—

should be enacted at a national level. The implementation and supervision of the legislation should be delegated to provinces. The national legislation should:

***** [asterisks as received]

Elections to local government shall take place on either a proportional or ward basis, or both.

Traditional authorities and cultural bodies

Provision will be made for an appropriate structure consisting of traditional leaders to be created by law to advise parliament and provincial legislatures on matters relevant to customary law and the powers and functions of chiefs. The powers of traditional leaders shall be exercised subject to the provisions of the constitution and other laws.

5. Judicial Authority

This chapter of the Constitution should only deal with the structure of the Courts, their respective jurisdictions and the appointment of the staff who administer them. Most of the matters relating to the functioning of the courts should be left to legislation. Proposals include the following:

***** [asterisks as received]

Public Protector, Human Rights Commission, etc.

This section deals with institutions which need to be established to safeguard the rights enshrined in the Constitution. These include a Land Claims Court Tribunal, a Human Rights Commission, a Public Protector (ombud) and a national structure to advance gender equality. The Constitution shall protect the independence of these institutions, requiring inter alia their appointment by Parliament with a 2/3 majority.

6. The Public Service

Public service

The final constitution should contain only a framework for the regulation of the public service. The public service should be:

***** [asterisks as received]

The rights of public sector workers at all levels of government, as well as the terms and conditions of service of its members, should be regulated by national labour law.

National Defence Force

The Constitution should deal with the fundamental principles relating to the place of the Defence Force in democracy. It should prescribe that the Defence Force be primarily defensive in its structure and functions; that members of the National Defence Force not hold office in a political party; and that the SANDF [South African National Defense Force] comply with international customary law and treaties regarding armed conflict.

SA [South African] Police Service

The SA Police Service will have national jurisdiction to prevent crime, investigate any offences, maintain law and order and preserve the safety and security of the country. The President shall appoint a National Commissioner of Police who shall exercise command of the service subject to the directions of the Minister of Safety and Security.

7. Finance

Current provisions regarding the independence of the Auditor-General, the South African Reserve Bank and the Financial and Fiscal Commission [FFC] are more than adequate. The guiding principles regarding provincial financial and fiscal affairs should be that:

*** [asterisks as received]

The Constitution should provide that the bulk of revenue should be apportioned at national level after participation by provincial and local levels of government.

Provinces should be entitled to an equitable share of national revenue, taking into account regional imbalances and national obligations in respect of debt servicing. The Financial and Fiscal Commission will be established with a function and structure broadly similar to the existing FFC.

CONSTITUTIONAL POLICY CONFERENCE

The ANC National Constitutional Policy Conference will be held at the World Trade Centre from 31 March to 2 April 1995.

The Conference will develop ANC policy on constitutional matters to guide our structures and representatives in the Constitutional Assembly. In preparation for the conference, workshops are being held in all provinces. As many as 3,500 people will be involved at this level.

These provincial workshops will inform discussions at the national conference. Represented at the conference will be delegates from ANC branch and zonal structures, Cosatu [Congress of South African Trade Unions], SACP [South African Communist Party], SANCO [South African National Civic Organization] and other MDM [mass democratic movement] formations.

The conference will be opened by the President. The conference will review the CA [Constitutional Assembly] process, including the current time frames for the writing of the constitution.

There will be six commissions, which will be tasked with developing ANC policy. These commissions will report to the plenary, which will adopt positions.

Following the Constitutional Policy Conference, an MDM Conference will be held to gain broad support for the ANC's positions.

ANC'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Building a United Nation document proposes that the ANC adopts the following guiding constitutional principles:

1. The constitution of South Africa shall create a framework to build a united and undivided nation.

2. The character of the state shall be a multi-party democratic state based upon democratic majority rule.

3. The Constitution shall commit the country to a non-racial and non-sexist order based on the inherent dignity of all persons and the equal enjoyment of all human rights.

4. There shall be a bill of rights guaranteeing all accepted human rights including socio-economic rights and which shall be, where appropriate, applicable against all sources of power.

5. The Constitution shall as far as possible empower the poor and the vulnerable to enforce their rights and shall inter alia create a Human Rights Commission and a Public Protector to perform this function.

6. There shall be regular elections, at no longer than five year intervals, on a common voters roll based on universal adult suffrage at all levels of government. The electoral system at the various levels shall ensure accountable representation.

7. Parliament shall, subject to the Constitution, be supreme law-maker, and the expression of the will of the people. The executive will be accountable to it.

8. Parliament must not be limited in its capacity to legislate so as to address the legacy of the past including such issues as land restoration, redistribution and affirmative action.

9. Government shall be formed by the majority party or voluntary coalitions, if any.

10. Government shall be honest, accountable, transparent and cost-effective.

11. There shall be democratically elected government at regional and local levels (both urban and rural) whose powers shall be set out in the Constitution. The powers of regional government shall be subject to the need for national uniformity, national reconstruction and development, as well as the values in the Bill of Rights. National government shall be ultimately responsible for financial and fiscal matters.

12. The civil service shall be representative, impartial, and shall loyally serve the government of South Africa and mechanisms shall be adopted to ensure the accountability and transparency of the public service.

13. Separation of powers between the organs of government shall be provided for in a manner consistent with the accountability of the executive to Parliament and the principle of majority rule.

14. The role and status of traditional leaders in the non-partisan promotion and protection of customs, culture and customary law, shall be recognised, subject only to the principles set out above.

15. Powers should be distributed to the provinces so as to promote on the one hand government closer to the people, and popular participation in governance, and, on the other hand to minimise antagonistic divisions between provinces and between levels of government.

16. All provisions of the final constitution shall be capable of amendment subject only to the constitutionally prescribed majorities and procedures.

RIGHTS FOR THE NEW SA

This is the proposal from Building a United Nation on rights to be included in a Bill of Rights. It is a selection from the Ready to Govern document. The whole chapter on human rights in Ready to Govern is relevant.

1. The Bill of Rights will guarantee that South Africa is a multi-party democracy in which people enjoy freedom of association, speech and assembly and the right to change their government. Furthermore, the public have a right to know what is being done in their name.

2. The Constitution shall enshrine a strong right to information and a firm guarantee regarding the free circulation of ideas and opinions.

3. The Bill of Rights shall be binding upon the State and organs of government at all levels and, where appropriate, on social institutions and persons.

4. The Bill of Rights shall guarantee a right to a fair trial, and prohibit torture, cruel and unusual punishment or degrading treatment.

5. The Bill of Rights shall enshrine the right of a citizen to choose his or her place of residence, as well as the right of freedom of movement.

6. The Bill of Rights shall protect the right to life and the dignity of all. Such a right shall not preclude the legislature from providing for the right to an abortion by legislation.

7. The Bill of Rights shall protect the privacy of all persons subject only to reasonable restrictions to allow inter alia the state to enter property to protect vulnerable persons.

8. The Bill of Rights must guarantee language and cultural rights and religion, and respect the diversity thereof.

9. The Bill of Rights shall acknowledge the importance of religion in our country. It will respect the diversity of faiths and give guarantees of freedom of religion.

10. The Bill of Rights will protect workers rights to set up independent trade unions, to engage in collective bargaining and their right to strike must be protected. The

State will be a signatory to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions and commit itself thereby. The Bill of Rights will also prohibit slave labour, forced labour, the exploitation of children and discrimination in the work place.

11. The Bill of Rights will insist on the principle of equal rights for women and men in all spheres.

12. The Constitution will make it clear that seeking to achieve substantive equality and opportunities for those discriminated against in the past should not be regarded as a violation of the principles of equality, non-racialism and non-sexism, but rather as their fulfillment.

13. A new system of just and secure property rights must be created, one which is regarded as legitimate by the whole population.

*The taking of property shall only be permissible according to law and in the public interest, which shall include the achievement of the objectives of the Constitution.

*Any such taking shall be subject to just compensation which shall be determined by establishing an equitable balance between the public interest and the interest of those affected and will not be based solely on the market value of such property.

*Regulating the use of property in the public interest, eg. of the environment, or the health and safety of the public shall not be construed as a taking of property rights.

*The Bill of Rights shall establish the principles and procedures whereby land rights will be restored to those deprived of them by apartheid statutes. A Land Claims Court Tribunal, functioning in an equitable manner according to principles of justice laid out in legislation, will, wherever it is feasible to do so, restore such rights.

14. The Bill of Rights should support the provision of homes, employment and utilities such as light and water.

15. The Bill of Rights shall affirm the right of all persons to have access to basic educational, health and welfare services. It will establish principles and mechanisms to ensure that there is an enforceable and expanding minimum floor of entitlements for all, in the area of education, health and welfare. It shall commit the courts to take into account the need to reduce malnutrition, unemployment and homelessness when making any decisions.

16. Special and additional levels of protection shall be afforded to children, who will have a right to protected from neglect, abuse, exploitation or exposure to harm, as well as a positive right to basic nutrition and health care.

17. The Bill of Rights will direct that the environment be protected from desecration and nurtured, on a sustainable basis, for the benefit of South Africa, its children and its children's children.

18. The Bill of Rights will direct the state to ensure that all South Africans live in security and peace.

19. The Rights contained in the Bill shall be capable of limitation where such limitation is justifiable in a democratic, open society based on freedom and equality.

20. In the international sphere, the state shall become a party to suitable human rights conventions and in particular those dealing with racism, gender discrimination and the rights of children, which apartheid has until now rejected. In this way we shall assert our rightful place in the international community. Treaties which impact on South African legislation shall require the approval or participation by the South African Parliament in the form of a national law.

21. The Bill of Rights shall guarantee a right to procedurally fair administrative action where a person's rights or interests are affected.

22. These rights shall be derogated from

*only in a state of emergency necessarily and properly declared to protect the security of South Africa, and;

*only if the Constitution does not specify that the right in question may not be derogated from, and;

*only to the extent necessary to restore the security of the nation and the safety of its people, and;

*only to the extent that such derogation is consistent with international law on the nature and extent of derogation of human rights in exceptional circumstances.

South African Press Review for 11 Apr MB1104133495

[FBIS Editorial Report]

THE STAR

ANC, NP Fail To Honor Commitment on Mediation—While South Africa has "grown tired of the brinkmanship strategy deployed by the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party]," it would be "folly" to dismiss the IFP's withdrawal from the Constitutional Assembly over a lack of international mediation as "yet another manifestation of political histrionics," declares a page 16 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 11 April. If the IFP does not participate in drawing up the new constitution the risk of intensified political strife is high. Parallels with UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and the Angolan civil war are as disturbing as they are obvious. Nelson Mandela's ANC and F. W. de Klerk's National Party "have failed to honour their undertaking to submit outstanding constitutional issues to international mediation." THE STAR believes the international mediation dispute has been aggravated by the constitutional proposals which the ANC plans to submit to the Constitutional Assembly. The ANC "plans to further reduce provincial powers in

return for a more powerful—but ANC- controlled—Senate. As the IFP believes that the present interim constitution already favours the central government, it will resist the proposals fiercely. The signs are not propitious."

SOWETAN

Corruption in Health Services—"Persistent reports of either inefficiency, the misuse of resources and even the theft of hospital materials such as medicines and bed sheets, must be a cause for concern to us all," states Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 11 April in a page 10 editorial. "Corruption in the health services hits society's weakest the most. The authorities must take steps to halt it and to severely punish the culprits."

BUSINESS DAY

Call for SACP to Separate From ANC—"The time has come for the SACP [South African Communist Party] to go it alone, and to prepare to fight the next election on a separate platform," according to a page 8 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 11 April. "Although they were perverted by communist regimes, certain traditions equip the SACP—rather than, say, the Pan-Africanist Congress—for a watchdog function: intellectual capacity, organisational discipline, an ethic of service and sympathy for society's underdogs." But, until it cuts "the umbilical cord" with the ANC, the SACP will be "unable to establish a separate identity and act as an effective watchdog."

CITY PRESS

Call for Mandela 'Disciplinary Measures'—President Mandela's "decisive action in rapping Holomisa over the knuckles should send a clear message to the populist group within the ANC that he now means business in running a smooth government," states a page 16 editorial in Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English on 9 April. The paper encourages President Mandela to "go even a step further with his disciplinary measures" and should clamp down on students "who spend more time outside the classrooms instead of learning." He should also call "to order" the police who have embarked on go-slow action, and "read the riot act" to leaders of various unions who are "bent on disrupting social services, especially in places like hospitals."

CAPE TIMES

Need To Probe Federal Options—"The markedly centrist approach on the balance of power between central government and the provinces by the ANC at its recent policy conference is a lamentable surprise," to Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 6 April in a page 6 editorial. ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa "does not appear to be comparing apples with apples in arguing that the party's proposals in fact strengthen the executive powers of the provinces while providing more efficient and non-competitive governance." CAPE

TIMES notes that the country has vast regional, social, cultural, economic diversity, "which should imply the most thorough investigation of federal options rather than a trend back to central authority."

South African Press Review for 12 Apr

MB1204124595

[FBIS Editorial Report]

BUSINESS DAY

Inkatha, ANC 'Obduracy' Over Mediation—"Inkatha, through renewed threats to disrupt the local elections, and the ANC, through its increasing obduracy, are turning a political molehill into a mountain," declares a page 8 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 12 April, referring to Inkatha's demand for international mediation. The paper believes the ANC

and Inkatha are "tugging at two ends of a rope with a knot tied in it." An opportunity to untie this knot lies with Deputy President F.W. de Klerk's "face-saving proposal of a summit of leaders to establish a task force on mediation." Inkatha has endorsed the proposal and if the ANC, too, "gives a little slack, a reasonable solution may yet be found."

SOWETAN

Call for Extension of Voter Registration Deadline—The cancellation of what was to have been a "massive rally" at the Union Buildings on 8 April to drum up support for the local elections "should set alarm bells ringing in the corridors of government," states a page 12 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 12 April. The country should "face up to the possibility of an unacceptably low registration tally by the cut-off date and accept that we may need to extend that date."

Angola

FAA General, UN Official Say Situation Improved

MB1004205495 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Joao de Matos, chief of General Staff of the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA], said the meeting between Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, and the Joint Commission was a sign of hope. Matos added that the situation on the ground has improved considerably and it is now up to politicians to deal with the rest.

[Begin recording] [Matos] The situation has improved considerably, and it is now up to the politicians to lead the process. We will follow the developments. We hope that the Joint Commission is able to carry out its plans.

[Unidentified correspondent] What do you think about the meeting in Bailundo?

[Matos] It was positive and brings new hope and new prospects for the situation in Angola.

[Correspondent] And the military situation, is it stable?

[Matos] The situation has improved. [end recording]

Matos made these remarks after meeting UN Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye this afternoon. The UN Angola Verification Mission-3 also says the situation is improving. Beye said the conditions imposed by the UN Security Council for the arrival of the Blue Helmets have generally been met. He said it is now only a matter of speeding up the preparations for the arrival of the Blue Helmets.

[Begin Beye recording, in French with passage-by-passage translation into Portuguese] The conditions imposed by the UN Security Council have generally been met. Now it is just a matter of speeding up the preparations for the arrival of the Blue Helmets. The peace process is on track. [end recording]

Parties Agree To Meet Outside Country

MB1004203795 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Angolan Government has finally given the green light to a meeting between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], outside the country. This was disclosed by a government source.

The source said that holding the meeting in Angola would signify the beginning of national reconciliation, but added that if UNITA continues to demand that the meeting take place outside the country, the government

is ready to attend. UNITA has insisted that the meeting take place in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, as part of the country's peace process.

Beye: All Conditions Met To Receive UN

MB1104081395 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alioune Blondin Beye, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's special representative in Angola, announced yesterday that the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, signatories of the Lusaka peace accord, have met all the conditions required for UN peacekeeping forces to be deployed in Angola.

Speaking to the foreign media in Luanda, UN Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye said preparations to receive the Blue Helmets were at an advanced stage.

U.S. Congressmen Visit Three Cities

MB1104072495 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The visiting team of U.S. congressmen is scheduled to visit the cities of Kuito, Huambo, and Bailundo today. The U.S. congressmen arrived in Luanda yesterday at the start of a planned four-day visit. They are here to learn how the Angolan peace process is progressing and about preparations for the arrival of UN peacekeeping forces. The United States will contribute a third of the total amount for the mission of the UN Angola Verification Mission-3, so the U.S. congressmen are here to learn all they can about all related issues and they have already made promises of support for the process.

They have already met with Social Reintegration Minister Albino Malungo, who briefed them on the food situation in the country. Minister Malungo said the United States is willing to provide humanitarian aid and to help peace take root.

[Begin Malungo recording] They told me that the U.S. Congress is willing to help Angola, particularly with regard to ensuring the maintenance of peace. This is very important, because peace will help settle many of the immediate problems facing Angola. Only with peace will we be able to resettle and place people, and give them basic conditions to begin productive work. [end recording]

Zimbabwe

Party Leaders React to ZANU-PF Election Victory

MB1104192395 Harare Zimbabwe National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The defeated independent candidate for Harare South constituency, Comrade Margaret Dongo, says her result in the 1995 fourth general

election should serve as a test case for ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] and the government. In an interview with the ZBC [Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation] Comrade Dongo said that her poll of 5,190 should be sending indications to the party that people should not be dictated to, but have a right to make their own decisions. She said the ZANU-PF Party, which she still contends she belongs to, must now use such cases to correct their own mistakes and problems. Comrade Dongo said although she disputes the manner in which the elections were held, she rejoices in the fact that people have shown support for her to bring recognition to the party.

The president of the Forum Party, Dr. Enoch Dumbutshena, has described the conduct of the just-ended 1995 elections as free and fair. Speaking to the ZBC, Dr. Dumbutshena said, however, ZANU-PF monopolized postal votes by only allowing members of the police, army and diplomatic corps to vote by post, who he said owe allegiance to the ZANU-PF government. He said thousands of other Zimbabweans living abroad should also have been allowed the use of the same facility. Dr. Dumbutshena added that the election campaign was run on an uneven playground because ZANU-PF has vast resources of money from the taxpayer.

The leader of the Zimbabwe Unity Movement, Edgar Tekere, whose party boycotted Zimbabwe's two-day parliamentary elections, has commended the police for ensuring peace during the elections. In an interview with ZIANA [Zimbabwe Inter-African News Agency] Mr. Tekere, who said he is still analyzing the results of the elections, said Police Commissioner Chihuri and his team need to be thanked and complemented for resolving that they will not tolerate nonsense.

The United Parties' secretary for information and publicity, Mr. Isaac Manyimba, says ZANU-PF's triumph in the just-ended general election is hollow because of his party's boycott. Speaking at a news conference in Harare

today Mr. Manyimba said the voter turnout was much lower than expressed in media reports and that many people in rural areas voted just to have their confirmation cards punched for fear of reprisals after the voting exercise.

Opposition Leader Remarks on Elections

*MB1104200995 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1947
GMT 11 Apr 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mutare April 11 SAPA—Opposition ZANU [Zimbabwe African National Union] (Ndonga) leader the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole on Tuesday [11 April] said his party's failure to secure more parliamentary seats in the weekend election was due to lack of funds and intimidation of voters by the ruling ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union—Patriotic Front] party.

ZANU (Ndonga) won two parliamentary seats, in the Chipinge North and Chipinge South constituencies.

Mr Sithole told ZIANA [Zimbabwe Inter-African News Agency] News Agency his party was compiling a list of grievances which it would take to the electoral supervisory commission.

Voters reported widespread intimidation by ZANU PF candidates in some constituencies, Mr Sithole said. Some voters claimed they had been threatened with eviction from their homes and the denial of government drought relief food.

Mr Sithole said his party's poor performance was also partly due to the lack of funds for campaigning. ZANU PF had blocked some foreign donor money from coming into Zimbabwe, he said.

He ridiculed claims that the elections had been free and fair. With rampant intimidation by the ruling party and "many irregularities", the election could scarcely be called free and fair, Mr Sithole said.

Nigeria

Abiola Reportedly Released From Prison

AB1104112395 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT
11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, 11 Apr (AFP)—Nigeria's principal opposition leader Moshood Abiola, who is facing trial for treason, has been released from prison, one of his wives said on Tuesday [11 April]. Kadiratu Abiola told AFP that she had received a telephone call in the morning from the federal capital Abuja to say that her Moslem millionaire husband, arrested last June 23, had been freed. She refused to say who had phoned her, but stated that she considered the caller to be a highly credible source for the news. She had seen no trace of her husband by 1030 GMT.

Ban Lifted on Crude Oil Sales to RSA, Israel

MB1004183195 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigeria has removed restrictions on the sale of its crude oil to South Africa and Israel. This was announced in Lagos by a senior official of the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. He said all Nigerian crude oil suppliers had received notification to this effect.

Despite the lifting of the UN oil embargo against South Africa in 1993 and the restoration of diplomatic links between Nigeria and Israel in 1992, Nigeria did not allow its crude oil to be sold to the two countries.

Sierra Leone

Guinea Boosts Military Support in Freetown

AB1104184195 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT
11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Freetown, April 11 (AFP)—Guinea has boosted its military assistance to neighbouring Sierra Leone by sending an extra 300 commandos to help ensure security in the capital Freetown, diplomatic sources said Tuesday [11 April].

The reinforcements bring the total number of Guinean troops fighting alongside government forces in the four-year-old civil war to roughly 800.

Nigerian forces are also in Sierra Leone, ensuring security in displaced persons' camps and providing air support for attacks against positions of the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

Meanwhile, a senior Guinean Army officer on a fact-finding mission to Sierra Leone Tuesday met the head of the military junta, Captain Valentine Strasser. Lieutenant Colonel Cabba Camara, the chief of staff of Guinea's Army, delivered a message from President Lansana Conte and is due to leave Wednesday.

The visit followed rebel attacks at the weekend on two towns less than 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the Sierra Leone capital.

An AFP correspondent Tuesday reported that calm had returned after the Army regained control of two towns on the major approach road to Freetown from the east. At least five people were killed there in fighting at the weekend.

Displaced people were Tuesday returning to a neighbouring displaced persons camp at Waterloo, 25 kilometres (15 miles) southeast of the capital, while Freetown itself was calm with businesses operating as usual.

Freetown police, however, said Tuesday they had completed investigations into the suspicious death of a Ukrainian helicopter pilot on April 6 and believed the pilot, identified only as "Nick", had killed himself.

A report on the incident said the pilot shot himself in the mouth "because he was in a distressed state", adding that he left two suicide notes to his pregnant Sierra Leonean girlfriend.

The pilot's body was found slumped in the doorway of the aircraft at a major military installation in a western suburb of the capital.

He was one of four Ukrainians employed by the Sierra Leone Army to handle a recently-acquired helicopter gunship, the only aircraft available to the force apart from Nigerian air support.

Sierra Leone's civil war began in the extreme southeast of the country in late March 1993. The junta led by Strasser came to power in a coup on April 29, 1992, ousting the civilian regime of former president Joseph Momoh, now in exile in Guinea.

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